

DACC Board Meeting Minutes						
June 26, 2024			7:30 AM		DACC Conference Room	
Meeting called by	Chairman, Rick Evans - called the meeting to order @ 7:30					
Type of meeting	Board Meeting					
Facilitator	Chairman, Rick Evans					
Note taker	Linda Peplau					
Adjourned	8:24 AM					
Board Attendance	Mark Wills	NOT PRESENT	Rick Evans	Y	Sanjeev Singhal	Y
	Jim Cox	Y	Jean Garniewicz	Y	Stan Shepherd	Y
	Mark Herbert	Y	Kerry Bridges	Y	Ben Stapleton	Y
Staff/Guests	Cheney Eldridge (present by video), Chris Driver, Anita Patel, Linda Peplau, Commissioner Connie Melear & Dr. Steven Flynt					
Meeting Agenda						
3 minute(s)	Chairman, Rick Evans					
Discussion	Chairman, Rick Evans calls for a motion to jointly approve the agenda for the June 26, 2024, DACC Board meeting and the minutes for the May 22, 2024, DACC Board meeting.					
Conclusions	Motion: Jean Garniewicz 2nd: Mark Herbert Motion carries unanimously. (8-0)					
Action Items	Person Responsible		Deadline			
N/A	N/A		N/A			
Minutes of Previous Meeting						
0 minute(s)	Chairman, Rick Evans					
Discussion	See above.					
Conclusions	Motion: Jean Garniewicz 2nd: Mark Herbert Motion carries unanimously. (8-0)					
Action Items	Person Responsible		Deadline			
Financials						
5 minute(s)	Chairman, Rick Evans					
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman, Rick Evans shares the following items in the May financials to the board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Waiting on some county appropriations that are due to DACC. ○ There are some accruals that need to be completed. ○ Page 2, reports on Total Assets & Bond Debt. ○ Page 4, reports on bond interest payments made in May. The last 2 regular bond payments were made in Nov. 2023. ○ Page 7 & 8, reports on budget remaining. 					
Conclusions						
Action Items	Person Responsible		Deadline			
None	N/A		N/A			

Chairman's Report			
0 minute(s)	Chairman, Rick Evans		
Discussion	Chairman, Rick Evans, passes his time to Cheney Eldridge for Economic Development updates to ensure she is on time for her flight. After Economic Development Updates, Chairman Evans reports that, Cheney covered all the topics he was planning to cover.		
DACC Committee Reports			
5 minute(s)	Jim Cox, Sanjeev Singhal & Ben Stapleton- Business Recruitment & Incentive Program Committee		
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim Cox shared & updated on the following committee meeting topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Digital update ideas for our website, for a more polished representation of DACC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * suggestions and comments to the above topic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sanjeev Singhal, contributes more on the importance of our website presentation for client outreach. - Jean Garniewicz, adds that our past foldouts are out of date and if we can consider updating them to hand out. - Kerry Bridges, suggests creating a small card with a QR code to hand out. - Rick Evans, suggests adding a QR code to our business cards to route potential clients to our website. - Anita Patel reports that our staff has recently met with a marketing company to polish the branding of DACC. • Ben Stapleton shared & updated on the following committee meeting topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continual discussion for the progression of Harlem, additional ideas to help facilitate. 		
Conclusions	None		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline	
None		N/A	N/A
Economic Development Update			
11 minute(s)	Executive Director, Cheney Eldridge		
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Director, Cheney Eldridge shares the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reports that she is currently at The 2024 Select USA Investment Summit in Maryland. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - She will be following up on a stack of business cards she has collected at the summit. ○ Progress report on the passing of the JDA (Joint Development Authority). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Verbiage on the agreement is being amended to ensure voting will be unanimous. ○ Board retreat updates & ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GA Power Plant to learn more about their resource capabilities. A few members shared how impactful the tour is. - Trilith Studios in the town of Trilith for benchmarking. - Aiming toward a date in the fall. ○ Update report on her recent KBS GIW tour. ○ Update report on the meetings with the county commissioners. ○ Shares vision for the Appling area. ○ Project report updates- submitted 3 projects, shares their economic development opportunities/investment potential. ○ Progress report on Project Manager hiring- narrowed résumés from 60 to 10, interviews start soon. <p>Chairman, Rick Evans, thanks Executive Director Cheney Eldridge for keeping County Managers & County Commissioners up to date on important events and activities.</p>		

Old Business	
Discussion	None
Conclusions	None
New Business	
Discussion	None
Conclusions	None
Public Comments	
33 minute(s)	Dr. Steve Flynt & Commissioner, Connie Melear
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner, Connie Melear shares the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Columbia County Incorporation steps/vote updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shares pros & cons for the passing of the vote. - #14 on the vote ballot. - Shares the link and findings from the Feasibility Study by Valdosta State University. - Density & agriculture change concerns. - Shares accessibility to state funds, franchise fees, grants & matching funds as an incorporation, if passed. - Commissioner Melear, answers questions & gives examples of what the incorporation would look like and how it would run (same as is, except for on paper). ○ Gives a comprehensive explanation of how properties are appraised, taxed & revenue/department allocation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shares that Governor Kemp granted a tax credit last year that helped keep property taxes down. - This year's property tax bills do not reflect a tax credit, therefore making them higher than last year. • Mark Herbert, comments on the impact of rising home/land appraisals on the community and the impact of paying school tax on undeveloped land for developers. • Kerry Bridges, suggests the county gather all the utilities together to see what the county would really receive in Franchise Fees. • Dr. Steve Flynt shares the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adds to the conversation of property tax & school tax: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School's allocation, 3 cents to county - 1 cent to the schools = 9th lowest in the state per pupil in the state. - Schools are a great economic tool that bring people to our community, therefore being a great value for the taxes paid. - 60% of the school's revenue comes from the state. ○ Inflation is one of the school district's major challenges. Cost of goods to run, renovate and build the schools have greatly increased. ○ 1st day of school is August 5th. ○ Shares that there is discussion to lower the school mileage rate. ○ Shares the challenges of social media in and around our schools.
Closing Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman, Rick Evans shares, that if we didn't have a great school system & a well managed county, no one would want to move to our county. • Kerry Bridges, shares that businesses such as Club Car & Amazon, are reasons the county is able to lower the mileage rates. • Anita Patel, thanks the board for all they have done for her, affording her to raise 2 college graduates, the board thanks her in return for all her hard work.
Early exits	<p>Mark Herbert exits the meeting early @ 8: 11, as scheduled.</p> <p>Cheney Eldridge exits the meeting early @ 8:20, to catch flight, as scheduled.</p>

Calendar of Events		
1minute(s)		
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 12, 2024 Property Development Committee • July 12, 2024 Existing Business Development & Workforce Development Committee • July 17, 2024 Executive Committee Meeting • July 24, 2024 Board Meeting 	
Adjournment		8:24 AM
Conclusions	Chairman Rick Evans calls for a motion to adjourn the June 26, 2024 Board Meeting at 8:24 a.m. Motedioned: Kerry Bridges 2nd: Jean Garniewicz Motion carries unanimously (7-0) (less 1, Mark Herbert (left early).	
Next meeting: July 24, 2024	DACC	All